

Melody A.C. Bro  
Watershed Coordinator  
641/484-2702, ext 120  
melody.bro@ia.usda.gov



SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE

# Union Grove Lake

## May 28 Project Kick-off Planned

You're invited to learn more about the new Union Grove Lake Watershed Project at our Project Kick-off on Wednesday, May 28.

Join us at the Youth Shelter on the east shore of the lake. A short pres-

entation will begin at 10:00 a.m. to be followed by an open house. Demonstrations of water quality monitoring, residential and rural land use, and agricultural conservation practices will be ongoing.

Secretary of Agri-

culture Bill Northey, Director Rich Leopold of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Martin Adkins, Assistant State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are scheduled to attend.

### Join us at the lake:

Project Kick-off	May 28	Youth Shelter	10:00 a.m.-noon
Information Fair	July 8	Youth Shelter	3:00 -8:00 p.m.
Rain Garden Workshop	Sept. 2	Youth Shelter	6:30 p.m.

Many of us in and around Union Grove Lake Watershed sat up and took notice when the lake was placed on the state's "impaired waters list." From that concern, the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project was born.

Water bodies within the state are placed on the "impaired" list when they no longer meet their designated purposes due to water quality. Union Grove's impairments include algae, pH, bacteria, and turbidity (clarity).

Union Grove isn't just a state-owned lake. It is a resource of Tama and Marshall Counties and has economic impact on the surrounding communities of Garwin, Gladbrook, and Green Moun-

tain. Lake use in 2006 alone was estimated at 111,000. The lake is also an indicator of the health of the natural community we live in and a reflection of our residential and agricultural land use. That's why it's important for us to come together and help.

The Union Grove Lake Watershed Project will be conducted over the next three years. A water monitoring plan is being developed to better determine where pollutants are coming from in the area. The project will also include using soil and water conservation practices on the watershed's agricultural land to help improve runoff entering the lake. An educa-

tion program for Union Grove's landowners, farm operators, and rural and lakeside residents will also be ongoing.

What can you do? Get involved by learning more, volunteering and making changes on your land. Working together, we can heal Union Grove Lake.

The project is a cooperative effort of the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District, the local office of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

# Union Grove Lake Watershed

Melody Bro,  
Watershed Coordinator

Tama Soil & Water  
Conservation District

102 Hwy 30 West

Toledo, Iowa 52342

Phone: 641/484-2702, ext. 120

Fax: 641/484-5289

Email: melody.bro@ia.usda.gov

The publication of this document has been funded in part by the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act).

## Bro Named Watershed Coordinator

The face of Union Grove Lake's new Watershed Coordinator may seem familiar to many of you.

Melody Bro, rural Montour, has been named Watershed Coordinator by the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District's Board of Commissioners.

Bro began her tenure with the district in 1983 when she accepted the position of State Engineering Technician in the Toledo Field Office, a job she held for nine years. Her role in the district has evolved since then, including serving six years as a commissioner and several additional years as Assistant Commissioner. For the past four years, she has held the position of District Soil and Water

Conservation Technician.

During Melody's early years with the District, she made numerous personal contacts with the Watershed's rural landowners and operators. She also assisted them in determining and installing conservation practices that would address their soil erosion issues while still fitting their farm management needs.

As Watershed Coordinator, Bro will facilitate outreach and education activities; make personal contacts with landowners, farm operators, and residents of the Watershed; and coordinate the implementation of soil and water conservation practices.

Melody is a graduate of Iowa

*Union Grove Watershed landowners  
Marshall and Diane Mussig with Bro*

State University in Agronomy and Pest Management. She and her husband, Mark, farm in southwestern Tama County. They have four children.

**Did you know?** Union Grove Lake has 5.7 miles of shoreline